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# THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO  
AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,



LIVE STOCK  
and RURAL ECONOMY.

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## Farm Work for September.

This is a busy month for the farmer and planter. Fruit to be gathered, extra care given to stock; land to be fallowed for wheat; rye to be sown; corn to be cut and secured in shocks; tobacco to be housed and kept clean of worms, and other small jobs necessary to be done on the farm. We ask attention to the few suggestions following:

**WHEAT.**—The seed should be selected or procured at once; it should be of the best, purest, cleanest, plumpest, most prolific and heaviest that is to be had, and sown at the rate of five pecks per acre, if drilled, and 6 pecks if by hand. A good timothy or other grass turf or clover lay is best for this crop if the land be in good condition, and the ground plowed in time for the turf to be rotted, or nearly so, when the wheat is sown. Plow 6 or 8 inches with rather flat furrows and followed by the drag or Smoothing Harrow. Never cross plow if possible, or disturb the turned under turf, but keep the ground clean and pulverized by the frequent use of the drag or cultivator until the wheat is sown. At the last dragging sow 200 to 300 pounds of some good fertilizer, then drill the wheat and roll. Wheat wants a fine tilth, firm soil and clean land.

Tobacco is a good preparatory crop for wheat if it is well plowed before being drilled, then also highly fertilized and heavily rolled. It is folly to sow wheat on poor land—on badly prepared land of any

kind. It don't pay and the unprofitable system or rather, bad habit, should be abandoned.

The seed should be soaked a few hours in brine, with copperas or sulphur and well stirred in the steep, and the scum or defective seeds that rise to the surface carefully skimmed off. Then drain it, spread on the barn floor and dry with slacked lime or plaster. It should be sown soon or immediately after being rolled in the plaster or other material, while the same sticks to the grains. The soak or steep can be made of salt or ashes or both—lime water, four ounces of sulphate of copper, (blue vitriol, *not green vitriol*,) to each gallon of water. The steeps of either sort should be strong enough to bear an egg. They are all excellent to hasten the vegetation of the plant and stimulate growth, and the vitriol preparation is considered a sovereign preventive of smut and the fly. Where the fly has not been troublesome for some years, we would recommend early sowing as best for insuring a good crop. It is thought that late sowing will prevent fly, or avoid its ravages; but you are likely to encounter thereby *rust*, and besides we have seen late sown wheat entirely destroyed in April and May. The fly is most destructive when the wheat stem is making its second and third joint.

Be sure and have a sufficient quantity of water furrows to carry off surface water, that is in excess at any time, and see that the whole field is properly drained, by open or blind ditches, or both, where required.

**RYE.**—The same remarks and suggestions apply to the rye crop. Rye does not require as rich or heavy soil as wheat. A light sandy soil, well cultivated and aided by some manure or fertilizer, will bring a good crop of rye if sown early, when the same land under like conditions would not produce a paying crop of wheat.

**ROOT CROPS.**—It is presumed the beet, mangold and carrot crops have been laid by, but they should occasionally be hand weeded, and the ruta бага and turnips ought to have the ground kept porous, and free from weeds and grass. Sprinkle the plants often with ashes or plaster, or the two mixed.

Potatoes should get their last working, and kept free from bugs. The early planted if not dug before, may now be dug, and sent to market, after culling them carefully so as to present in each lot, uniformity in size and if possible in form. It is surprising what a difference there is in looks and in price between badly assorted and skillfully culled lots of potatoes. Small potatoes uniform in size and form, and clean, will often bring a higher price than much larger ones badly fixed up with here and there a small half ripe one. The buyer seems only to see these exceptions, overlooking the many superior bulbs. It pays well to cull judiciously all vegetables and fruits, especially potatoes and tomatoes, making two or three different assortments. When sold the general average price will be much greater than if all were indiscriminately mixed and sold. We know this, and think it proper to call attention to it. It is neglected too often, and some say it does not pay, but it does.

**CORN.**—Cut off the corn close to the ground, as soon as the grain is well glazed and the milk is out of it, before the fodder dries and blows off. Carefully put it up in shocks of good size, say about 100 stalks in a shock, well secured at the top by a straw rope or withe of corn tops, and

splayed at the bottom to be self supporting and not easily blown down. Let the shocks be in straight rows, the rows about 40 to 50 feet apart.

**TOBACCO.**—Let the tobacco have plenty of room in the house to keep it from sweating. After it has partly cured it can be re-hung closer to make room, and also to keep out damp air. Too much care cannot be taken in handling this crop at this stage to prevent bruising, tearing, heating, keeping clear of worms and suckers, &c. After cutting let it wilt well before handling, but in a hot sun it will soon burn, so that it ought to be picked up and laid in small heaps of 8 or 10 plants, enough for a stick before it burns; lay the heaps with butts of plants to the sun.

**ORCHARDS.**—If you are going to set out an orchard this year, select your lot, manure it well, and plow it up deeply, so as to have it ready for digging holes and planting the trees next month. Prepare a compost heap for mixing with the earth as the trees are planted.

This compost may be made of 5 parts fine mould or woods earth, 1 part ashes, and two parts fine ground bones or bones dissolved in sulphuric acid. Moisten with soap suds or liquid manure, and turn over several times, so as to become well intermixed. We shall have something to say about planting the trees next month—yet, just here we would say, that we would prepare to plant apricot, quince, cherry, plum, the peach and all the small fruits in the spring; but they can be planted next month with safety, and if not then done, while you are in the humor and have the time, perhaps they will not be in spring, when work will be very pressing. So, if you are ready and willing, as you ought to be, if you are scarce of good fruits, pray do not let this suggestion of ours stop you in your good work, for many orchardists prefer autumn planting. Then go ahead!



### Garden Work for September.

The gardener will find comparative leisure this month and has time to get the walks in good order, to destroy weeds and put them in compost heaps with ashes, wood's mould and soda, manure, plaster, salts, and soap-suds to hasten decomposition.

*Lima Beans* should be saved as they ripen.

*Snap Beans*, may be sown early in the month, for pickles and late table use.

*Turnips*.—Sow rather thick, a bed of turnips to stand all winter and furnish "tops" for early spring greens.

*Salads*.—Make the last sowing of lettuce, and be sure to sow a large border of corn salad in drills. It is a delicious winter and spring salad.

*Brocoli and Cauliflower* plants set out in beds, and cabbage plants also during the month, for spring use.

*Garlic, Shallots, Leeks, and Horse-Radish* may be re-planted in rich, well prepared beds.

*Celery*.—Commence earthing up the celery, and endive or other crops that require it. Sow a small bed of Spanish or Chinese radish. Thin and weed late beets and carrots. Keep all the growing crops clean and friable, and do not let them suffer for water should the month be dry.

*Parsley and other Herbs*.—If strong and luxuriant, cut rather close to the ground, dry in the shade and put away in paper bags for winter. If the ground be dry, as soon as cut, loosen the ground about the roots, and remove all the weeds and grass from the beds, then give a good watering with a sprinkling of plaster and slacked ashes; the plants will again begin to grow and branch out.

*Cresses, Chervil* and other salads sow this month.

*Cabbage Seed* may be sown at once, that

the plants will be ready for setting out next month.

*Cauliflower* seed should be sown, if not already done, to have plants set in cold frames in November.

*Strawberries*.—If you have not a plenty of this fine fruit, prepare a bed at once, get choice varieties and set them out.

*Raspberries, Currants and Gooseberries*, toward the end of the month, may be easily propagated by layering or cuttings.

*Seeds*, of all kinds as they ripen, be gathered dried in the shade, and when fit, rub or beat out the seeds, clean nicely and put away in small bags in a safe place or hung up to be secure from mice and insects.

*Spinach*.—Sow early as possible a large bed in drills of this wholesome and delicate vegetable for late winter and early spring use.

### The Farmer's Life.

This summer has been one of the hottest and most trying seasons to the farmer that has occurred for many years. At least, such has been the case in our immediate vicinity, and reports have reached us from a wide circuit to the same effect. This state of things has given room for all who have felt disposed to grumble with their occupation and with their situation in life, to have their full satisfaction in using hard words and displaying their discontent. It is true there are many discouraging and disheartening phases even to the farmer. We would, however, be only too happy to know of some pursuit which would be free from these! Who of our readers can point out to us such a bonanza of happiness? How soon would we drop our pen and rush thither! It is not that the farmer's life is free from hardship and discouragement that we have always pointed it out as worthy of attention to the worn-out city dweller; but it is because of the greater

amount of true happiness, health and enjoyment connected with it. It has enough of hardship, of trial and of labor to develop true manhood in our hearts, and it gives us the self-reliance and the spirit of independence which makes us faithful to those endowments which God has bestowed upon us. While every occupation has its full share of labor, of the care and anxiety which belong to our pursuits, the farmer's life is to a very large degree less subject to these things, and is consequently a life worth having!—a life to be sought after, and not abandoned on any small pretext. How often have we heard the farmer's grievances enumerated! Frost in the spring to prevent the early planting and frost in the autumn to nip the late planted and the tardy maturing corn! Then the long, dry, hot summer days, the insects, the heavy storms, disease visiting your live stock, markets glutted, prices for produce extremely low, clothing coarse and scanty, the refinements of life only seen at a distance, the great moving power of "cash" seldom at the farmer's call! Allowing all these things and a thousand more which are too insignificant to mention; but which are just as real, just as hard to bear, and equally annoying; what shall we say? We will not say these things are unreal or of little moment; but we will say every other pursuit has an array of grievances just as long, just as heavy and fully as depressing in their effects upon the spirit; while most of them are destitute of those elevating and health giving influences, which make of us real men and women, capable of living a manly or womanly life—treading onward with a happy consciousness that we need fear no one in this world, and can win for ourselves all we need in life, together with a large measure of contentment and joy.

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Now is the time to separate cockerels from the pullets. Do not let them annoy and knock the pullets around.

#### Letter from Kent County.

ED. MD. FARMER.

DEAR SIR:—Since your Fourth of July trip among the farmers of Kent the numerous steam threshers have made short work of the wheat crop, and as you intimated, the crop has turned out much better than many of them expected, and most of them have more than an average. Among some of the farmers whose farms you passed may be mentioned the following as the story of the thresher. W. P. Crosby, over 3,000 bushels; H. Bramble, near by, 3,000; C. Wood, 5,500; William Clothier, 3,100; Lewis Ayres, 2,000; R. W. Jones, 1,700; L. Stevens, 3,000; W. H. Coleman, 1,700; T. Brice, 1,900; J. Beck, 2,000; W. Skirvin, 1,200; Wash Skirvin, 1,500, and numerous other small farmers from 800 to 1,000 bushels. Mr. L. R. Shewell, whose beautiful country home was pointed out, got 800, which with his usual peach crop, secures him a handsome interest on his investment in Kent lands. Mr. S. as you know is the author of the successful play that has recently appeared on the American stage, "The Shadows of a Great City," and we regret to hear his genial face will soon be missed from our village P. O., in his daily visits. The season opens in New York on the first of September, and he and Mrs. S., nie. Olivia Rand, leave their country home on the 20th of August, amidst the gathering and shipping of a fine peach crop. Mr. S. thinks there is no place like old Kent. The recent fine rains have secured a fine corn crop which will be above the average, and the grass begins to show the glorious effect of thunder storms, bringing it a copious fall of rain, loaded with plant food: carbonic acid and ammonia, the great elements composing vegetable or organic matter, starch, sugar and gluten, the foundation of animal life. During your visit you saw on grass the effect of marble dust, (carbonate of lime,) spread on June 4th; since then the grass has been cut, but the rapid growth of grass and clover plainly points out the figure June 4th, which is far ahead of the other. Such facts demonstrate the importance of farmers experimenting to find the missing elements in their soils, or what is necessary to set in motion the chemical action, so important in the great programme of converting the inorganic elements into organic matter, through the roots of plants,



and not through the leaves as is claimed by scientific writers.

The yield of wheat mentioned above can be safely reckoned as being from twenty to thirty bushels; although many farmers have secured from thirty to forty bushels per acre.

The later varieties of peaches are ripening and soon Light Street Wharf will present a busy appearance from the handling of them. A number of steamboats have been engaged in moving the crop. The Chester River line has four making daily trips, and the other lines from our county have their share. The season at Tolchester Beach has been a most successful one, and almost daily thousands of visitors meet there to enjoy the cool retreat and the fine salt water bathing. The fine drinking water supplied from three artesian wells cannot be excelled, one of these being strongly impregnated with iron, and the visitors should drink freely of it. The iron is an oxide held in solution by carbonic acid and this spring is located near the riding grounds. The steamer Louise that makes two trips a day to the Beach, is the finest excursion boat in the Baltimore harbor. The entire absence of all intoxicating drinks is a sure protection against all disturbances, especially as the police arrangements are perfect. With abundance of the good things furnished the table, all can enjoy a happy day at the Beach. Kent has tried local option for some years, and its good effect has gained friends all over the county, and no political party dares to think of changing it.

Rock Hall, Aug. 12. A. P. S.

P. S.—J. V. Crosby, near our village says, on less land he has raised the largest crop of wheat he has ever known grown on his farm, using dissolved S. C. phosphate and kainit with a little raw bone.

In starting in the poultry business with a view to marketing the eggs and fowls, do not build one large and costly house for the flocks, but several small ones. They need not cost much to hold thirty, or about that number, without crowding. Comfortable and roomy quarters are the best.

Neglected fence corners soon become worse than unsightly. They become regular hot-beds and forcing places for weeds, whence the latter are distributed over the farm.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### The Hessian Fly.

The Hessian fly made its first appearance in this country in 1776, and two years later it almost entirely destroyed the wheat crop of two or three counties of New York. It soon migrated to Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. It appeared in New England in 1833 and in Michigan in 1837. Since its first visit to the wheat fields of this country it has visited almost every section of the wheat area, and at least a dozen times it has done serious and wide-spread damage to our wheat crop. In some localities it has done such damage that for years farmers were compelled to give up wheat growing altogether. Since 1878-9 it has not done great damage, until the year just past. The last crop was damaged by it, from Kansas to New York, and in some sections the damage was quite serious. As its most destructive visits are usually preceded by its appearance in such numbers as ravaged the fields the past season, we may expect great damage to the forthcoming crop, unless the season proves unfavorable to it, its parasitic enemies become numerous, and we take effective measures against it.

There are two broods. The first deposit their eggs in the fall, upon the young wheat plant. In about five days they hatch. It requires about four weeks for the larvæ to reach the pupa or "flaxseed" state. It is in this state that they spend the winter months, producing the second brood of flies in the spring. It is, of course, only the fall wheat which is damaged by this brood. The spring brood deposit their eggs in April or May, upon the spring wheat or the barley, both of which they seriously damage, and, when these fail, upon the fall wheat, which, however, they damage but little compared with the injury done by the fall brood. Nevertheless it often appears that the greatest damage to winter wheat is done by the spring brood. This was the case in New York the past season, when it seemed that splendid wheat was destroyed during the three weeks preceding harvest. This was in appearance only. The fall brood had so far weakened the plants that the work of the spring brood proved readily fatal. As the spring brood is produced by the fall brood, if we get rid of the latter we also rid ourselves of

the former.

The egg is deposited in the long creases or furrows on the upper (inner) side of the leaf. When the larvæ hatches out it proceeds down to the base of the leaf, where it quietly ensconces itself between the leaf and the stalk. It does not gnaw the stalk nor does it penetrate into the central cavity thereof; but it absorbs, imbibes, the sap of the plant. This so weakens it that it turns yellow, and finally dies. The effect is the same as if the roots of the plant were fatally injured. It is robbed of its food, and in time starves to death.

The fly is a creature of cool, moist climate. Heat and drought are destructive of it. Hence it and the chinch bug never come in conjunction. It is rarely, if ever, seriously destructive after a dry, hot summer and fall. Hence in some localities it need not be greatly feared the coming year; while in some others the season has favored it. It is preyed upon by several parasites, which destroy large numbers. But it will not do to depend upon the season and parasites, these may aid us, but we must depend mostly upon our own exertions for the salvation of the wheat crop.

Plowing the ground deep and then rolling it down, though frequently recommended, is of no avail. Likely it does positive damage by taking attention and effort from more effective measures. Some recommend the early sowing of a strip, upon which the flies will deposit their eggs, and it is then destroyed. But here we encounter two difficulties—to get the flies to deposit all their eggs upon this strip and then to destroy all the eggs. This cannot be recommended. Neither can early sowing and pasturing with sheep. The sheep will not get all the larvæ. In order to destroy the larvæ the plants must be cropped down so low that they are seriously injured; while the trampling of the sheep must be more or less injurious. The only effective measure is to defer seeding until after the season of ovipositing, which ends, in the latitudes where the flies do the most damage, about September 20. If the soil is fertile and the seed-bed is well prepared, and if plump seed is used, the plants will make a sufficient growth before winter sets in. Generally seeding may be delayed until there is a moderately heavy frost, which will insure the safety of the wheat.

Quincy, Ills. JOHN M. STAHL.

## California Fruits.

California is becoming a very important fruit growing State. Its soil and climate seem to be especially adapted to the best development of all kinds of fruit, and these products of the soil are now finding a very important place in the Eastern markets. Peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, grapes, etc., can be grown and shipped to the east considerably in advance of the native fruit.

Raisins are also grown and cured in California, and in quality compare favorably with any that the market affords. They are put up clean and full weight, which cannot be said of those coming from foreign countries. It should be the policy of this country to encourage the production of everything possible that is now imported, and so the dealers in fruits should encourage the fruit growing industry upon the Pacific Coast that comes in competition with all foreign grown fruit. In this way the money of the country is kept at home instead of being sent away. It is far better to supply others than to be dependant upon others for a supply. In this way when dealing with foreign nations, wealth is brought into the country.

## Country Cured Bacon.

Almost every one knows of the great disparity in the quality of country cured and city cured bacon. At least of the Virginia, and we suppose the Maryland country bacon. Who that has ever tasted of the good old, dry cured Virginia ham, sweet, savory, juicy, clear of skippers, would exchange it for the best city made or canvassed ham ever seen in the market? Of course there is poor country made bacon, and passably good canvassed or sugar cured. But we speak of the old time country made bacon as it was, and still is in some sections of East Virginia and Maryland.

This bacon is dry salted, smoked till of



a ginger-bread color, and then left hanging in the same house where it was smoked. It is not wrapped in anything, but left hanging so the air can circulate freely around, and where the temperature is always moderately cool. If boxed, or put in a cellar, it is sure to mould, and this detracts from the sweetness a little. An airy, cool smokehouse is the best place for it; but the house should not be too open, and should be entirely clear of rats and other pests. The only objection to this open exposure of the meat is, the facility it affords the bacon bug for laying the eggs of the skipper. This fault is easily obviated at trifling cost. Fasten a large, square frame to the joists of the smokehouse, taking care to have the box, or safe, large enough to hold all the bacon you expect to keep during summer.

The pieces should then be hung as near together as possible without much crowding, in order to make a small, handy safe answer. Have a door to open and close on hinges, for taking out a piece as needed. You have then only to cover this frame, bottom, sides and top with wire gauze to make it entirely bug proof. If you put the bacon in this safe before the bug comes out in March, you will have no skippers, and you will have the perfection of bacon.

B. W. JONES.

*Virginia.*

### Deer Creek Farmers' Club.

#### Discussing the Relative Profit of Ordinary and High Farming.

"Which is the easier, the more profitable, and in which do we take the most pleasure—in making poor land good or in making good land rich?"

Mr. R. Harris Archer argued that it would be easier to make poor land good than good land rich. By good land he meant such as would produce from 12 to 15 barrels of corn to the acre and by rich land that which would yield from 20 to 25 barrels. A man could take a sedge field and in 15 years could make it produce from 12 to 15 barrels of corn, or fatten a bullock

on 2 or 3 acres. This requires no peculiar skill, but to make good land produce 20 or 25 barrels of corn requires science, and that this is difficult is evident from the fact that few farmers accomplish it. When land has been lying idle for some time, half a ton of bone to the acre produces wonderful results, but the same amount of bone applied on land that will produce 12 or 15 barrels of corn per acre will increase the yield only a barrel or two. The fertilizer on the poor land must therefore pay better than on the good land. He thought, also, that the pleasure was greater in improving poor land than increasing the yield of good land.

Wm. Webster was of the opinion that the pleasure and profit were both greater in making good land produce from 20 to 25 barrels of corn than in making poor land yield 15 barrels. There is less labor in farming rich land than poor land. The reason why few farmers reach the high standard of 20 barrels is because when they get their land to yield 15 barrels they are satisfied and make no effort at further improvement. Farmers make a mistake in farming too much land. The same fertilizer applied to one half the number of acres would, with less labor, produce quite as much. Rich land can be worked at less expense than poor land and is more profitable.

J. Thos. Webster also thought it easier to make poor land good than good land rich. Land may be made to produce from 20 to 25 barrels of corn to the acre, but it is difficult to keep it up to that standard. There is more profit and as much pleasure in seeing an old worn-out place improved and brought to yield 15 barrels of corn to the acre and good crops of clover and timothy than in increasing the fertility of it beyond that point.

R. John Rodgers said he regarded it as more difficult to make poor land good than to make good land rich. It requires a great effort and a great deal of fertilizer to get poor land to yield 12 to 15 barrels of corn to the acre. Commercial fertilizers alone will not do it. When land will yield 15 barrels of corn to the acre it is not so difficult to bring it up to 20 as it was at first to make it yield 15 barrels. It is also more profitable to further improve the rich land because you can then raise a large quantity of grass, which is the basis of all improvement.

There is, no doubt, a great satisfaction in improving poor land, but when you consider the increased profit in working rich land the pleasure must be as great. It also pays better to fertilize land heavily when it is rich than when it is poor. If you do not see a large increased yield of corn after fertilizing good land, you will see it in the grass following.

Wm. B. Hopkins believed that there was much more pleasure and profit in making good land rich than in making poor land good. No good farmer should be willing to stop short of the largest yield. On the farm on which he resides Col. Wm. B. Stephenson had raised 22½ bushels of corn to the acre, by plowing down a heavy sod and applying half a ton of bone to the acre. The profit on that crop was greater than it would have been from the same application on land that would yield 10 barrels of corn per acre.

Wm. F. Hays said he had had a hitch in making poor land good, but if he were going to buy a farm he would prefer to buy good land and try to make it rich. Five or six years ago he plowed a sedge field three times before putting a crop in it and raised 44 bushels of wheat to the acre. He put on 400 pounds of bone and 50 pounds of Peruvian guano to the acre. There is a good stand of grass on it now. He thought he would get this field rich at less expense, with less hard work and in a shorter time than it had taken to make it good.

George E. Silver said if he were going to buy a farm he would prefer buying a good one even at \$100 an acre, although he had to go in debt, rather than a poor one at \$25 an acre, if he had all the money to pay for it. There is, he thought, a limit in point of cultivation beyond which land ceases to yield a profit for the fertilizers used and labor applied and he would place this limit at 20 barrels of corn to the acre. It costs but little more to work an acre of good land, producing 15 barrels of corn, than an acre of poor land which will produce no more than 5 barrels. There is no profit in the latter. The larger the yield the greater the profit. He thought the reason why farmers are not enriching their land more rapidly is because when it begins to yield a revenue they indulge in luxuries which they did not when they were working poor land and had to economize. Where land is thin the application of fertilizers is

seen more readily but perhaps the same amount would do rich land as much or more good, although the benefit might not be seen in the next crop.

Johns H. Janney said the results show that it must be easier to make poor land good than to make good land rich. It requires science which few farmers understand to make good land rich. Much depends on the natural quality of the land. Some land can never be made to yield 20 barrels of corn to the acre. The profit per acre on the capital invested is greater in making poor land good.

Edward H. Hall thought, also, that much depends on the character of the soil. It is easier and more profitable to make Deer Creek soil produce 20 barrels of corn to the acre than to take his land, near Abingdon, and make it rich.

John Moores said that a man sees greater results from the application of fertilizers to poor land than to rich. Many farmers are qualified to take a poor farm and improve it, but few are competent to take good land and make it rich. If he were buying a farm he would rather buy a poor farm at say \$20 an acre than a rich one at say \$60. This year some poor farms are raising more wheat to the acre than the rich farms. With corn it is different. Here the rich land tells. It requires a great deal of skill and fertilizers to grow 20 barrels of corn to the acre, while almost any ordinary farmer can produce 10 or 12. It requires more manure to keep land producing 20 barrels of corn to the acre than to keep it producing 12 or 15.

Wm. Munnikhuisen said he commenced 30 years ago to farm on as many acres of sedge as any man in the county, and in four or five years he had doubled his crops, but since he has never been able to double again. He had also derived more pleasure in starting the improvement than in keeping it up. He concluded that it must be more difficult to make good land rich than in making poor land good. There must be more profit in making land increase in yield from 5 to 10 barrels of corn than in bringing up the yield from 10 or 12 to 20 barrels.

Judge Watters said that a certain amount of fertilizer would produce greater results on poor than on good land. On land producing three or four barrels of corn, fertilizers might increase the yield to 10 barrels. On good land the same amount



might add only four barrels. Where there is a limit to progress the nearer you approach that limit the slower you get. Thus, in training a trotting horse, if he is capable of speed, it is easier to increase his speed 10 seconds than it is afterwards to increase it a quarter of a second more, but it is the last quarter of a second that adds so much to the value of the horse. The same labor and fertilizers will not produce as great results on good as on poor land, but what you get pays better. Plowing, working and getting the crop on poor land costs as much as on rich land and until you raise a certain amount per acre there is no profit. All that you raise over that gives a greater per centage of profit. The quality of land has much to do with capacity for improvement. If you cannot by any means get over 10 barrels of corn to the acre, don't spend money trying to get 20.—*Aegis and Intelligencer.*

### Hints on Wheat Culture.

As the harvest is over—and many have threshed, we can judge of the failures, or success of our various crops, and answer pretty accurately as the cause of said failures:

And now before putting in another crop of wheat or rye, let us see whether we cannot improve our methods, and that within our own resources. August is the month to find this way of success out—the spring kept us hard at work planting—the summer we were equally busy reaping, and now having comparative leisure, let us work out in our own minds the best and surest way of improving our management.

Upon my own farm I generally walk over the wheat ground that was cut with my head man and compare notes, I ask why this part of the field yielded better than the other? Was it plowed thoroughly and early, well harrowed, and rolled before seeding, and what was the effect of the fertilizers alone, and the fertilizers in connection with barn yard manure, or is barn yard manure better than either? You will find that your man will know something valuable, though he may not read. At least this is my experience.

Every year I endeavor to improve my methods. Now for results—my soil is a clay loam, and rolling and under fair cultivation. I state this so that each one can

judge for himself with his own soil as what will suit a clay may be entirely unfit for a sandy or gravelly soil.

Last fall I put in 20 acres in wheat, 10 acres after wheat, and 10 acres corn ground wheat. The first field was plowed early. Manure spread from the barn yard that was made from fattening cattle at the rate of six four-horse loads per acre, spread right from the wagon, and thoroughly harrowed in. October 7th, 8th and 9th the wheat was drilled, 1 bushel of "Amber" wheat, and 300 lbs. of a good fertilizer per acre on 8 acres, the other two acres having very rich manure, I did not use fertilizers. Being very dry, it did not come up for a long time, and looked poor all winter. In the spring it made a wonderful improvement and grew rapidly, and soon covered the ground. At harvest the sheaves were large and heavy, but the two acres of manured wheat, though good, did not compare in number and in weight of sheaves with the 8 acres of manured and fertilized wheat. This field yielded 28½ bushels of fine extra wheat of threshers measure, and it weighed 63 lbs. per bushel. The field of ten acres of corn ground, was drilled early in October, with 1 bushel per acre and 300 lbs. of fertilizer, and about half the field was manured with yard manure, mixed with leaves, and, in fact, every thing that I could scrape together and spread through the winter whenever it was fit to go on it. This yielded 16 bushels of good sound wheat. The other half was not worth cutting—in fact it did not pay for putting it in.

Now what do we learn from this: First, that a little good manure or good fertilizer makes a complete manure, and is decidedly the best way of applying the two together at the time of seeding. Secondly, that 1 bushel of wheat on good soil is plenty for an acre if evenly drilled, and thirdly, that the next best way of applying manure is to spread it through the winter or fall as it manures and acts as a protector at the same time. Fourthly, If you can not give the time and attention to the crop that it deserves, you will make more by not putting a crop in. I should state that the grass seeded on this manured wheat is so fine that I could cut easily 1 ton of good hay per acre at this writing, and which I shall do early in September.

If the right management is applied, there



is money in wheat even now.

*Plains Farm.*

F. SANDERSON,

### Golden Opportunities for Emigrants.

In a previous number of our Magazine we had occasion to quote from the proceedings of the Deer Creek Farmers' Club. We observe that in a recent meeting the subject of immigration was discussed, and the value the immigration would be to the State of Maryland, could the facts and inducements be properly placed before the emigrants so far as regards our State. The settlement of the Harford Furnace Company's lands was brought up as an instance. These lands were sold to German settlers, in small quantities, for prices ranging from five to ten dollars an acre, and are now occupied by an industrious and thriving people. Before they were occupied and improved in this way they paid taxes of about one hundred dollars to the State, and now they pay about twelve hundred dollars per annum. This shows the general improvement which has been accomplished in one small instance of actual settlement. Similar tracts of land may be had in many of the counties of Maryland, where the inducements for emigrants are equal to those in the above cited instance. At present the tide of immigration is to the far West; but we are sure that could the real facts be made known to the thrifty and intelligent emigrant, Maryland would receive a good share of their attention. In the West cheap land and good soil are the attractions, but in Maryland other advantages overbalance these, while the lands here are comparatively cheap and readily brought to a state of fertility by judicious management. In the West the settler finds himself far from his neighbors, with scanty means of communication, with no schools or churches within reach, markets for his produce far away and by no means remunerative when reached. Here every facility is offered in these respects.

The West supplies well the physical wants of emigrants; but adds nothing to their social advantages, nor to their mental and moral elevation. The great inducements socially, intellectually and religiously, should be set forth and considered whenever the advantages of Maryland are given. The emigrant has within his power here to become an intelligent, rising citizen of our country, informed as to all its interests and fitted by his surroundings to take an active part in its progress from year to year. Then the facilities for communication are nowhere better than in this State, while the markets are unequalled by any country as to prices for all produce. When we consider the disadvantages of the West in all the essentials of a happy life for the emigrant and compare them with the many advantages which our State offers in this direction, we can only regret that these facts cannot be brought more conspicuously before them, when about to make choice of their location.

### Good Vinegar.

To make good cider vinegar with certainty, let the cider stand in the barrel out of doors, as is usual, till it is what farmers call "hard" enough to still. Then take a cask that has recently had vinegar in it, and transfer the cider to that cask. If there is a little of the old vinegar remaining in the barrel it will be all the better. Again let the cider remain out of doors, only stopping the bung hole with a wisp of straw. In eight or ten days more the cider ought to show plainly the vinegar taste and condition. It may then be put into the barn, but not yet in the cellar. But if the cider is still slow in turning, put into the barrel a pound or two of brown sugar or a quart of molasses. If there is any life in the cider it will certainly turn now, and will be fit for use in a short time. The longer it is kept the better it will become. Cider put away in a cellar or cool place does not readily turn to vinegar. A demijohn of cider, unstopped, with a little sugar, will make a supply for immediate use. J.

### Natural Fruits.

Although New England may be looked upon as a hard farming section, in some respects it is highly favored above some other sections. Notably is this so in respect to the growth of small fruits, native to the soil. Blackberries, strawberries, raspberries and whortleberries, grow wild, and blackberries and whortle berries to such an extent as to be an article of market demand. Of whortleberries there are two varieties, the high and the low, the former ripening in advance of the latter. When allowed to grow these will spread and cover the soil, producing large quantities of fruit. The picking of these has usually been free to all, but recently the demand has so increased and become so active that the owners of fields forbid any trespassing of individuals for the purpose of picking fruit.

Families where there are children do a good business in the berry season in picking for market.

It has become so that local merchants purchase for shipment and even others make a business of collecting berries for the city markets.

The berry trade brings to the larger families that engage in picking a very handsome income.

Of course many of the berries are not picked; if the entire crop could be saved it would prove as profitable a crop as could be grown upon the character of land that the bushes thrive on best.

*Columbia, Conn.* W. H. YEOMANS.

### The Croakers Silenced.

For once, croaking in regard to the crops is silenced, at least at the South. The Atlanta Constitution reports that "not a single complaint is heard; the growth is everywhere luxuriant." The greatest stand of corn ever known in the world now flutters its myriad banners and uplifts its millions of spears under the Southern and Western skies. The cotton crop promises to be the largest ever known. And of wheat and other small grains, there will be enough to feed the nation and have the average amount left for export. It is a hard year for croakers.

KNOW THYSELF by reading the "Science of Life," the best medical work ever published, for young and middle-aged men.

### Agricultural Department's Crop Report for August.

The August crop report of the Department of Agriculture gives the details of the general condition of the crops of the country announced several days ago. From this detailed report the following facts are gleaned pertaining to the crops in Maryland: The State agent says that the condition of the corn crop is about five per cent. below what it was last year; yet, owing to the late rains of the 2d and 3d instant and the increase in acreage, the corn crop of Maryland will exceed by 100,000 bushels the crop of 1884, and be of equally good quality if no unforeseen accident occurs. The oat crop was exceptionally a good one. Tobacco is very promising, and likely to be a full and well-ripened crop, as far as can be expected from the lessened area planted. While the quantity of Maryland tobacco has lessened, the quality has increased; yet its market value has not improved correspondingly. As to the hay crops, timothy is good, but the crop is about one-fourth short. The same may be said of clover hay. Pastures, as a rule, are poor all over this State, with a few occasional exceptions. The late rains have, no doubt, revived them, and they may improve as fall pastures. Grapes are abundant, and promise a fine yield. Apples are fair for an odd year, and will yield a two-thirds crop of good fruit. Peaches will not be as abundant as was the early promise, but they will be fine. This is already a great crop, and extending yearly over the State as a money-yielding crop.

The condition of the corn crop by counties is as follows: Calvert—Prospects very promising. Harford—Looking well, and with seasonable weather will produce more than an average crop. Talbot—Severe drought and hot weather damaged the corn very seriously on light soil, while on heavy loam with good culture not so much. Caroline—In fine condition, and promises a heavy yield. Worcester—Very promising till the middle of July. Since then the crop is suffering for rain. Carroll—Suffered from drought in July. Montgomery—Very unpromising till the rain on July 27. If seasonable through August will make nearly an average crop. Garrett—In good condition, and promises a full crop. Queen Anne's—Injured some by



the drought, but recent rains have improved it very much. If favorable weather continues it will make an average crop.

The condition of oats is reported as follows: Harford—A better yield than for years, both in quantity and quality. Charles—A remarkable yield; many fields harvested thirty-five and forty bushels per acre. Worcester—Better than for several years, but still far below a full crop. Carroll—Hot sun shortened the crop. Garrett—A full crop, and quality is good. Queen Anne's—A larger crop than usual.

The following is the report on the potato crop by counties: Caroline—In good condition. Worcester—A good growth, but are now needing rain badly. Queen Anne's—Small patches for home consumption; a full yield not so promising. Caroline—In good condition. Worcester—Early planting generally good; late need rain. Montgomery—Badly damaged by drouth; if seasonable through August, may make three-fourths of crop. Garrett—Promising. Queen Anne's—A good crop; are now being gathered.

#### Corn Crop in Frederick County.

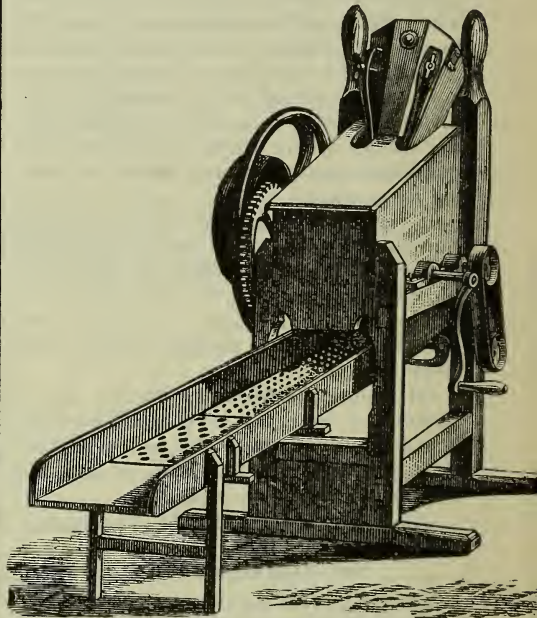
The corn crop looks remarkably well, and from the prospects we believe our farmers will have one of the largest crops ever gathered. On the Manor and around Frederick and Petersville and Jefferson districts it will not be quite so good, although a great improvement has taken place during the past few weeks. The recent rains have greatly benefitted Mr. McMurray's large crop of sugar corn. He has in cultivation upwards of 2,500 acres.

THE New York Times says that "the total annual value of forest products exceeds that of the corn crop by nearly \$30,000,000, and exceeds the value of the wheat crop by fifty per cent. This enormous amount of nearly \$700,000,000 is produced by the exhaustion of the supply and the destruction of its sources. So far no effort has been made to replace it or restore it by any conservative or reproductive management. The enormous business in forest products is a warning that in a very short time the sources of this wealth will be cut off, and also an indication of the profits to be derived from procuring a new supply by planting or economizing the present

stock by a wise and careful management of it. Farmers who own timber land will do well to preserve it from wanton destruction, and to preserve the young growth while they make use of that which is mature."

#### Young America Corn Sheller and Separator.

The time for shelling corn is close at hand, hence we give cuts of *Whitman's Young America Corn Sheller and Separator*.



It shells and cleans the corn at one operation, dispensing with the use of a fan, works very easily, and is acknowledged by all who have seen it at work, to be a perfect sheller. This little machine has in the last two years received a large number of First Premiums in its class at the different fairs where it has been exhibited.

This is the ordinary corn sheller improved, and has had added the simple but effective shaking riddle that acts as a fan in cleaning the corn as fast as shelled. This makes it one of the best shellers we know



of, and certainly is an indispensable machine on every farm.

### Experiments With Grasses.

The following extracts are from a recent bulletin of the Ohio Experiment Station showing their own conclusions as to some of the leading grasses.

#### TIMOTHY or HERDSGRASS.

Probably the value of timothy has been overrated, and when farmers have become better acquainted with other species it will not be so generally cultivated. One reason why timothy is such a favorite is that it seeds abundantly and the seed separates readily from the chaff or glumes that surround it. On this account its purity and quality can be easily determined. Another reason is that it makes fairly good hay if not cut until some time after blossoming. Cutting should not be delayed too long, however, or the value of the crop is very much lessened thereby. The best time for harvesting timothy is when about half the blossoms have turned brown, the upper portions of the spike still remaining purple.

The most serious objections to timothy are that it is of little value for pasturing after mowing, and that it is liable to be injured by the close feeding of horses or sheep.

Another objection sometimes urged is that timothy exhausts the soil. This is true but it must be remembered that nearly all crops exhaust the soil in proportion to their value. A crop that does not draw on the store of plant food in the soil is not worth harvesting. In our experience timothy appears to be best adapted to moist, loamy ground. It does not do so well upon either dry, sandy or gravelly soils, or hard, compact clays. The plots on the Station grounds on peaty or loamy soils have invariably done well. For the past three years these plots have been in full bloom about July 1st—ready to cut one week later. Ripe July 20th, with an abundance of seed. Height, 3½ feet; weight of seed per measured bushel, 45 lbs.

#### RED TOP—(*Agrostis vulgaris*.)

Next to timothy, the "red top" is one of our best known cultivated grasses. It is a perennial native species, and is cultivated in Europe under the common name

of "bent grass." It appears to favor rather moist soils, and thrives better than most cultivated species on cold, undrained upland. It yields a large quantity of hay—rather light in proportion to bulk—but very palatable and easily eaten. Our plots in full bloom June 27th. Ripe July 21st. Height, thirty inches. Weight of seed per measured bushel, 12½ lbs.

#### JUNE GRASS OR KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS.

##### (*Post Pratensis*.)

It varies much according to the soil and climate. In Ohio it is regarded with much more favor in the southern part of the State than it is in the northern. The farmers in Kentucky regard it as the most valuable of all grasses for hay and pasturage. It is one of the most widely diffused species in the world and is found in greater or less proportion in all the best meadows and pastures of Europe as well as America. Its chief value is for permanent pastures and lawns. Unless in highly favored sections its growth is rather too short to make a valuable hay crop. Here on the experiment grounds it is one of the hardest grasses we have tested. No amount of cold or exposure seems to injure it. Last year it was in full bloom June 1st and the seeds were fully ripe two weeks later. Height, 10 to 12 inches. Weight of seed per measured bushel 14 pounds.

#### ORCHARD GRASS OR COCK'S FOOT.

##### (*Dactylis Glomerata*.)

This certainly stands near the head of the list of valuable forage grasses. It is rapidly coming into favor, and is now quite widely disseminated throughout the State. It is found not only in pastures and meadows, but is admirably adapted to partially shaded locations, such as orchards and along roadsides. This grass is indigenous to every country in Europe, and is found in Asia, Africa and America. In the United States it was first cultivated in Virginia in 1759, and was soon thereafter introduced into England. It is quite aggressive and spreads rapidly, but is very sensitive to good or bad treatment.

It is specially adapted to strong, rich lands. It affords pasturage early in spring, and yields a great amount of aftermath. It often looks coarse; but in reality is tender, palatable and nutritious. The habit of growing in tufts or bunches may be overcome by sowing the seed more thickly and

by the use of the harrow in early spring. Some farmers sow it with clover, and like it better than timothy for the purpose. There are few who have given this grass a fair, impartial trial, who are not well pleased with it.

It should be cut when in blossom, or very soon after. Ripe orchard grass makes very poor hay. On our trial plots the orchard grass has not winter-killed and has invariably yielded a larger amount of early foliage than any other variety. It begins to head about the middle of May, and is in full bloom the second week in June. Height 40 inches. Weight of seed varies from 12 to 14 pounds per bushel.

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VIRGINIA FAIRS.—The following is a list of Virginia fairs, to be held this year, with the opening dates: Bristol, September 22, four days; Abingdon, September 30, three days; Pulaski, October 7, two days; Fincastle, October 6, three days; Lynchburg, October 13, four days; Lexington, October 14, three days; Winchester, October 14, three days; Culpeper, September 29, three days; Scottsville, October 7, three days; Alderson, October 13, four days; State fair, Richmond, October 21, three days; Loudoun, September 15, three days.

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### The Chemistry of Food.

There is no reason why every housekeeper and cook should not have a knowledge of the chemistry of cooking, and of the healthfulness of different articles of food. At this particular season of the year, nature bountifully supplies us with much that is cooling in the way of fruit and summer vegetables, which are not only delicious articles of food, but are really health-preserving, for often a slight indisposition of children, or older persons, can be readily cured by the free use of these culinary remedies. Spinach has a direct effect upon complaints of the kidneys, the common dandelion, used as greens, is excellent for the same trouble, asparagus purifies the blood, celery acts admirably upon the nervous system and is a cure for rheumatism and neuralgia, tomatoes act upon the liver, beets and turnips are excellent appetizers, lettuce and cucumbers are cooling in their effects upon the system,

beans are a very nutritious and strengthening vegetable, while onions, garlic, leeks, chives and shallots, all of which are similar, possess medical virtues of a marked character, stimulating the circulatory system and the consequent increase of the saliva and the gastric juice promoting digestion. Red onions are an excellent diuretic and the white ones are recommended eaten raw as a remedy for insomnia. They are tonic and nutritious. A soup made from onions is regarded by the French as an excellent restorative in debility of the digestive organs. We might go through the entire list and find each vegetable possessing its especial mission of cure, and it will be plain to every housekeeper that a vegetable diet should be partly adopted at this period of the year, and will prove of great advantage to the health of the family. With vegetables, as with everything else, much depends upon the cooking and the care and preparation beforehand. Washing in several waters is absolutely necessary to prepare nearly all kinds of green vegetables for the table, and great care must be given in examining spinach, lettuce, greens and cauliflower, as often very minute insects are lurking in, or under the leaves of these. It will be found a good plan to wash them in weak salt and water, after which they should be put in ice water for a few minutes to prevent their becoming tough and wilted.—*Mrs. Eliza Parker, in Good Housekeeping.*

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### Bees.

We heartily endorse every movement which adds to the scope of experimental knowledge, which can be secured for the farmer, through the instrumentality of the general government. All experiments in connection with farming, with plant raising, with introduction of new seed, with stock, with poultry, or with bees, whether they prove successful or not, meet with our approbation; for often an unsuccessful experiment will teach as important a lesson, as will an experiment crowned with the highest success. We are pleased therefore with the establishment at Aurora, Ills., by the Department of Agriculture, of the Bee Experimental Station. The Entomolo-



gist of the Department of Agriculture has the whole matter in charge, and gives us the following outline of his purposes:

"To secure the introduction and domestication of such races of bees as are reported to possess desirable traits and characteristics; to prove by experiments their value to the agriculturist of the United States and their adaption to our climate and honey producing flora; to make experiments in the crossing and mingling of races, and endeavor to secure the type or types best adapted to the uses of our bee keepers, to make experiments in the methods of artificial fertilization; to test the various methods of preparing bees for winter; to gather statistics concerning the bee-keeping industry in the United States; to make observations concerning varieties of honey producing plants for bee forage; to study the true causes of diseases yet imperfectly understood and the best methods of preventing or curing them; and to obtain facts as to the capacity of bees to injure fruit.

#### **Fifty-five Pounds of Honey in Three and a half Days.**

We often see accounts of large yields from Jersey cows, fields of grain, potatoes, etc., but very seldom see accounts of what bees do. As I have just had a colony do a little better than I ever had one do before, I will state the facts for the *Journal*.

Saturday, July 25th, at two o'clock P. M., I ran all the combs except those containing brood, of a strong colony of Albinos, through the extractor. Wednesday, July 29th, at eight o'clock A. M., I ran the same combs through again and got fifty-five pounds of as nice bass-wood honey as I ever saw. This gave the colony about three and one half working days, and would be about sixteen pounds of honey per day. How is that for Maine?

#### **WHAT A THREE FRAME NUCLEUS DID.**

Last spring I purchased a few two and three frame nuclei. About May 25th, one of them that was on three frames seemed to be more energetic than the rest and built up much faster. They were given empty combs until they crowded thirty-three combs. Saturday, July 25th, they cast a very large swarm. Monday July 27th, I extracted sixty pounds of honey from it, and as I wished to save some of

the queen cells, I made three very strong four frame nuclei and left plenty of bees in the old hive to get in good shape to winter.

In a future article I propose to tell what another colony of bees that has quite a history has done. WM. HOYT.

*in Lewiston Journal Me.*

## **The Dairy.**

### **Grain Growing.**

There is no doubt but the dairyman obtains his greatest profit by making the farm product, as nearly as possible, all that the dairy requires in the way of grain and other foods of course grass is the greatest want, for summer food, and winter hay, but as a noted writer remarks "more grass can be grown by frequent breaking up and reseeded than by keeping land continually to grass, and the grain fields afford more fodder if skillfully tilled than grass lands that have been long laid down, and cows are healthier and in particular, are freer from that pest known as epidemic abortion, when the products of the grain fields form a considerable part of their food, than when living entirely on grass and hay. Cows, as well as humans, are benefited by variety and change in their rations, and grain growing upon the dairy farm to some extent favors such change, and increases revenue at the same time."

### **Managing Cream.**

There are a good many things connected with the rising of cream and its proper care and management but little understood by the public or even experienced dairyman. The question is often asked, why will both heating and cooling milk expediate the rising of cream? The following from Prof. Sheldon, a lecturer, before an English dairy school, will throw some light upon the vexed question:—

Mild does not become unmanageable if the temperature of the room does not rise above 65° in the middle of the day. It must be borne in mind always that this question of temperature, closely followed by those of cleanliness, watchfulness and industry, is of very considerable importance in a dairy. No dairy equipment is



complete without a thermometer. The colder the room, especially in summer, the faster the cream will rise, and the more thoroughly. This is the result of natural laws. Water, of which milk is chiefly composed, shrinks sooner than fat under the influence of cold, as also it expands quicker under the influence of heat. This is because it is a better conductor of both cold and heat than fat is. And the result of milk being placed in at atmosphere much colder than it is itself at the time, or in much colder water, is seen in the comparatively rapid ascent of the cream. This is simply because fat, being a slower conductor of cold than water is, retains its buoyancy all the longer, and so rises to the surface quicker in a falling temperature of the milk than it does in a stationery one. And it rises all the quicker, within limits, the more rapidly the milk is cooled. This indeed, is well observed in the Swartz and Cooley system of milk-setting—the former operating in ice water and the latter in a current of cold water, and both of them in troughs or boxes containing the water in which the cans of milk are placed.

Some persons attach importance to the heating of milk to 130° or so, soon after it is taken from the cow. Intelligently pursued, this practice is a sound one. In the first place, heating will expel the animal odor—the “cowey” smell—from the milk; it will, for the time being, checkmate the action of fermentive germs that milk may naturally contain, or that it may have absorbed from the air: and it will tend to the dissipation of the peculiar flavor which some kinds of food—turnips for instance—impart to milk that is produced by their aid. But it must be remembered that milk at a high temperature is all the more liable to go sour from the formation of lactic acid, so that, especially in warm weather, and unless it can be placed in a cold room, it should at once be cooled down to 70° or so, after which the cooling may be allowed to proceed more leisurely during the time the cream is rising. During the rapid cooling from the high temperature, the milk should be stirred, or an albuminous skin will form on the surface, and this is objectionable. Milk heated and cooled in this way will remain sweet longer than with cooling from its natural temperature only, and the cream will rise the quicker. The heating is said

to enlarge the cream globules by coalescence, and the larger the globules, the sooner they rise—a fact which has been microscopically ascertained in milk whose globules vary in size, which, indeed, is the case in all qualities of milk.

A cool dairy, then, is especially valuable in summer time, hastening the raising of the cream, and keeping the milk from souring. In order to produce the finest-flavored butter, pure and delicate in aroma, it is essential, I consider, to prevent all approach of sourness, and to churn sweet cream. Acidity in milk is incipient decomposition, and it is the more delicate flavoring oils which suffer first of all among the fats of which butter is composed. Butter made from perfectly fresh cream is, of course, pure in flavor, but there is not a full flavor in it; and if a full-flavored butter is desired, which is generally the case, it is necessary to let the cream “ripen” by keeping it some days, but keeping it sweet all the time. Some persons prefer the cream to be slightly sour when it is churned, and the souring will make a tough and keeping butter, somewhat less attractive in flavor, and which is more easily churned, as a rule. But, at the same time, a more admirable butter is made from ripened cream that is still free from perceptible acidity.

### Ensilage For Milch Cows.

The experiments and experiences for the past two years are thoroughly conformitory of the idea, that if in the filling, or immediately thereafter, a high heat can be induced which shall pervade the mass in the silo, and then, all tightly closed, the ensilage will remain sweet until it is re-opened, and an opportunity to ferment is offered by exposure to the air. These results are attained by not too rapid filling, nor too much tramping, the temperature being watched, and as soon as that of one layer or portion reaches, say one hundred and thirty degrees Fah., another layer of three or four feet in thickness may be added, levelled off, packed a little around the sides, and left for a day or two to heat in turn. Pits filled in this way last year, turned out beautifully, and the cattle, especially milch cows, have had healthful, excellent feed, fragrant and sweet, and, of course, highly relished. When such can become the general or universal condition of ensilage on

good farms, the objections to its use will disappear. Heating of ensilage is promoted by cutting, by which the juices are exposed to the action of ferments, the germs of which are almost universally distributed in the atmosphere near dwellings and farm yards. The very fine cutting which used to be recommended, is probably unnecessary, but neither corn nor clover, when packed whole, come into a uniform heat, and we presume the same would be true of other ensiled plants.—*Amer. Agr.*

### Common Sense in Feeding.

The report of the proceedings of the Oxford Farmers' club, of Ohio, contains among other sensible talk the following on feeding: The reports of feeding experiments at experiment stations are full of instruction and hints to us. They are worth more than the testimony of any one of us who might weigh our feed carefully. We would not then know what percentage of the feed was digested. Too much of the feed often goes into the excrement and is not assimilated. By noticing this and changing the feed this may be corrected. This is the case where we see whole corn pass the horse, ox or cow. Digestion is not right or the food is not suited to the animal in such cases. While our weighing animals and feed given will help us, still we need more light than this can give. The careful feeder watches little things. No man can be a good feeder who is not a close observer and quick to note the condition of every animal in his charge. The chief thing is to suit the ration to the animal. Feeding is so much of an art that not one man in ten knows how to feed most successfully. We do not even know how to feed ourselves to prevent dyspepsia and disorders which come from improper diet and manner and times of eating. It is evident that this subject of feeding is one we need to study much, for it is the foundation to better husbandry.

### Items of Interest.

Sheep enrich land very materially when feeding over it.

Do not neglect the weeds now. See that they are killed off.

Unfortunately there is no law against farmers using low bred bulls.

The great bane of clover fields, after a catch has been secured, is weeds.

Scientific agriculture is a big name, but it only means intelligent farming.

When a cucumber is allowed to ripen on the vine, the latter will cease bearing.

Ducks do best on a variety of food with plenty of grass and a little grain at night.

If horses are allowed to graze for an hour or so after the day's work they will be all the better for it.

Raw eggs are good to cure scours in young stock. One egg makes a good dose. Give plain or in boiled milk.

Rye may be sown as soon as oats, and early potatoes are harvested, and will afford a good bite for stock in the fall.

After wheat is stacked it should not be threshed until it has gone through the sweat, which generally takes about six weeks.

In bee keeping, use no moth traps or complicated hives. If you use a good frame hive and keep your colonies strong, you need not fear the moth.

F. D. Curtis says that a cross of Jersey and Ayrshire makes excellent cows. "The offspring of such a union," he continues, "give more milk than the average Jersey, and it is of better quality than the Ayrshire milk usually is. If I were to breed a cow for the family, or to make a family breed, this would be the cross."

Dairy stock should be well fed at all seasons of the year. Do not be afraid of the cow that eats heartily, but shun her if she is a dainty, light eater. Food is what she makes her milk of. But there is such a thing as over-feeding a cow. She should not be given all she can eat from morning to night.







### Editorial Letter.

As the heated term approaches it is a great luxury to leave the city office for a short period and journey into the country to enjoy the pure atmosphere, and the invigorating influences of the green fields. Our readers, who are familiar at all times with the farmer's life, know but comparatively little of the joys that come to the stifled lungs and weary brain of the city dweller, when he is able, if only for a few days, to revel in sylvan delights and inhale the freshness of country air. Rest of body and mind come to him and the whole system is strengthened and invigorated as no physician's tonic could ever hope to up-build him.

Something like this has come to the Editor, since we have left the MARYLAND FARMER office and journeyed northward in search of rest and strength. During our brief stay at Old Orchard, we found the beginning of that recuperation which we so much needed; and now, in the familiar country scenes of Maine the good work is being carried forward.

The first weeks of our stay here were saddened by the departure for the better land of a dear sister, whose long life was marked by kindly and loving deeds and whose death has made a vacant place in our life which cannot be filled. We would place on record our brief tribute to her many virtues, and our heart's sense of loneliness and loss in her death.

But turning from these matters of individual concern, we would speak of somewhat of general interest to our readers, which has been also a source of gratification and pleasure to ourself. We have been enabled to visit some of the very fine herds of Jerseys in this State and in a future letter will give you some little description of them. We propose first, however, to visit the New England Fair, to be held in Bangor, the last of this month, (August,) in

connection with the Eastern Maine Fair. It is generally believed here that this will be the very best Fair ever held by this society. They have taken unusual care in advertising it, and in all the details of the preparations the same determination is evident to make it superior to any ever held before in this region of country. The hand bills and posters, about the size of a barn door, are to be seen in every locality in New England, and all the farmers interested in horses and live stock generally, whom we have met, as well as those in the dairy and agricultural machinery interests, have made preparations to be present. It will be a grand gathering, worth a journey to witness. We shall be early on the ground and spend at least a week there; for we expect a rich treat in the examination of all which will be attractive and profitable; and shall hope to find something which will interest the readers of the MARYLAND FARMER also.

The whole country is now looking splendid. We have never seen the crops of all kinds looking better. The hay crop, although looking badly in the beginning of the season has come forward very rapidly in July and has proved at least an average one. The apple crop is decidedly a good one. Corn is doing well and all other crops are fine. The fall of rain has been all that was needed; the weather is cool and pleasant, and everyone we meet uses that expressive word, "delightful."

We have been as usual much interested in the progress of the dairy business here; and the more we see of it, the more we feel that Maryland is making a great mistake, that the farmers do not establish more Cheese and Butter Factories. We visited a Cheese and Butter Factory in Winthrop last week, which is run by Messrs. Jones & Smith, making about fifteen hundred pounds of fine butter a week, which sells rapidly at thirty-five cents a pound. In forty days, up to July 22nd, they made 554 cheeses,

weighing 23,528 pounds. The daily receipts of milk are about 4,500 pounds. This whole establishment is operated so systematically, so pleasantly, so satisfactorily to the farmers of Winthrop and its vicinity, that while examining it, we could not see why we could not have plenty of just such establishments in our State of Maryland. We have every facility, the very best cattle, the necessary pasturage, all needed capital, markets at our very doors for all we can produce, why do we not move in this direction?

We know that this is a subject of which we have often spoken in the past, but we shall continue to speak and write about it in the future, for it possesses advantages for farmers which they should appreciate, and of which they should not be slow to avail themselves.

Enough, however, for the present. In due time we shall make our report of the great Fair. W.

Aug. 17, 1885.

### The Fairs.

Some time since we called particular attention to the management of our Agricultural Fairs, referring especially to the sale of questionable privileges to gambling booths and demoralizing shows. We urge again a reform as to these matters, and we hope there will be a decided improvement in these respects. We are desirous of seeing the Fairs so conducted that every farmer will feel disposed to patronize them, and that no fathers nor mothers will regret having attended the fair with their sons and daughters. The Fair should be a season of enjoyment and profit to every farmer and his family, and it can be made such a season by the managers providing against the introduction of immoral and disgraceful influences. Then the freedom of intercourse, the contact with other minds, the observations made by those in similar pursuits, and the view of improved methods,

instruments and stock, will more than compensate for the expenses of attendance, even if held at some distance from the families home. Let every farmer who can do so attend the Fairs during this season and take such measures as may be necessary to purify them in view of the future. A good social recreation will be secured for the family's enjoyment, and all will return to their homes better satisfied with the work before them and realizing how large and profitable improvements may be introduced into their own lives. We are aware that it will generally repay any farmer to attend the Fairs, even as they are at present surrounded by questionable influences; but we wish them so reformed that old and young, the farmers' wives and daughters, may also enjoy them without danger of contact with the often obscene exhibitions that have prevailed in the past.

### Education in Agricultural Colleges.

We observe among our exchanges some criticisms in reference to the course of instruction in Agricultural Colleges and the results following the present method. It is claimed that the great majority of those in charge never have had any experience in practical agriculture, and that the mere theory is taught by professors, versed in scientific knowledge perhaps, but who have never followed the plow in person. That the consequence is, that the students leave the college fitted for almost any pursuit rather than the life of the farm, and that very few of them ever become reconciled to agricultural pursuits.

If this criticism were just, it would certainly be a strong argument against the practical utility of these colleges. But the facts are opposed to this statement and the argument is consequently of no force. Our colleges are placed in the hands of those, who, in most instances, have risen from the farm to positions of eminence, and unite



practical knowledge with practical experience. The students are not only trained in mind; but receive a training, by actual work, in the most approved methods of handling agricultural tools and machinery, and the cultivation of the soil.

That the graduates should in some cases embrace other callings instead of that to which they were trained is inevitable. It is the experience of all trained minds. We educate a boy for the ministry and he becomes a merchant; or we educate him for a lawyer and he prefers a farm. We send him to the best schools to make a soldier of him and he prefers gown and cassock to the shoulder straps. These things are to be expected, and are of no weight against agricultural colleges. It is well enough, however, that practical farmers should have the work of the colleges in their keeping; and it is part of the duty of the press to see that the college curriculum is inclusive of the personal manipulation of all farm work by the students. These colleges are of real value to the people; keep them so, and improve them if possible.

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### Bells on the Farm.

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Of the utility of bells on the farm there can be no question. Anyone who has had them or seen them in use will readily admit, we are sure, that they are a valuable, not to say a necessary convenience. We speak, of course, of large farms of more than a hundred acres in extent, where there are tenants and laborers regularly employed. Not only for calling to meals and to work, but for calling in a person at an unusual hour, calling to a neighbor or giving notice of accident, fire, sickness, &c., the bell serves better than any contrivance we have yet seen devised.

Within easy sound of our residence are four or five of these farm bells that ring regularly, morning, noon and night, and at other times as there is occasion. Every member of each family knows the signal and what is wanted when the bell rings. They can be heard plainly two or three miles away in any kind of weather, except

hard wind. They are useful not only to the immediate family, but to the neighborhood, and few who have them would dispense with them for double the price.

The first cost is but a trifle—fifteen or twenty dollars—we believe, here in southeast Virginia. There is no future cost to speak of. A bell will last a generation—two or three generations, we suppose, if taken care of. The bell is not specially needed on a small farm, or, at any rate, the size of the bell may be made to conform to the size of the farm.

The sound of a clear toned bell will attract attention at once, but very often one may hallo and hallo to a group of laborers, not a quarter of a mile away, till he is hoarse, and not one of them will seem to hear. How convenient and satisfactory to have a bell at such times to wake them up. Every well-equipped farm needs a bell and is not quite thoroughly furnished till it has it. Of the two, a clock or a bell, we should prefer to be without the first rather than the second. Get a bell and put it in place and see how useful you will find it.

B. W. J.

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### Beans.

The bean is one of the most ancient articles of human food. It was cultivated in Egypt from the earliest ages, and formed the common dish known among the Hebrews as pottage, for a dish of which Esau bartered away his birthright. It is supposed to be a native of Persia. De Caudolle believed it to have come originally from the shores of the Caspian Sea. The Greeks used it for food, but the Romans gave great attention to its cultivation, and had some curious superstitious notions or beliefs in regard to it. The Romans introduced the bean into England, but, while this is all very interesting, it must not be forgotten that, after all, it is not our bean, but still the English variety. Our bean has no written history further than what is found in the botanical dictionaries, as to the bare fact of the native habitats of the different species. From this source we find that our Lima bean is a native of the East Indies; the common pole kidney bean is from India; the scarlet flowered varieties are from Mexico, South America and the West Indies, while some other varieties are from tropical South America. Of the chem-

ical and nutritive qualities of our beans enough is known to give them a high place in the domestic economy. We know that they contain a large portion of nitrogenous substance and are very rich in legumin or vegetable casein, which is identical with the casein of milk, and may be made into cheese equally as good as that from skim milk. But the dictum of the appetite may be taken as a fair indication of the value of the bean as an article of diet. Judged by this kind of evidence, as seen in the camps of those hardy men who spend the most rigorous seasons exposed to the bitterly cold weather in the Northern forests, or upon the mountains, or in the cabins of those who plow "the raging main," we may consider that the high nutritious value given to the English bean by the chemists is equally deserved by our own species, while in flavor ours infinitely surpass theirs.—*New York Times.*

### The Advantage of Tillage.

Jethro Tull was a firm advocate of tillage, a course that may well be adopted in many cases. The trouble is, as a rule, the American people are inclined to get along with as little labor as possible and still accomplish the desired end. And yet there is as strong an inclination to accumulate riches, two conditions that are somewhat incompatible. It has become a well-established fact that successful farming cannot be carried on without labor, and especially is this necessary in the cultivation of crops.

The indolent farmer may imagine that he, by a partial neglect of his crops, is getting along just as well as his neighbor who is thorough in his work. For some reason, perhaps, a neglected crop for once might succeed fairly, but it will not prove so as a rule.

The experiment has been tried in the same field, one-half thoroughly tilled and the other half only imperfectly so. When dry weather came on with severity corn that was frequently hoed resisted the influence of drought, while that which was neglected withered, its leaves rotted and it suffered largely. Such cases are sufficient to satisfy reasonable minds of the advantage of tillage.

W. H. YEOMANS.

### Philosophy for Hot Weather.

Washington Irving, so the story goes, once said to a lady friend: "Don't be too anxious about the education of your daughters. They will do very well; don't teach them so many things—teach them one thing." "And what may that one thing be?" inquired the lady. "Teach them," counseled the author of 'The Sketch Book,' to be easily pleased." No more sensible piece of advice could well be given to perspiring Americans who go about these days finding the grasshopper a burden. The best way to keep cool and serene is not by putting a cabbage leaf in one's hat, is not by putting ice-water in one's stomach, nor yet by tarrying long at the straw that leads to mixed drinks. Such devices are not to be despised, but the most effective weapon with which to ward off the heat is the fine art of being easily pleased. The man who is easily pleased is a man that can rely upon his digestion, and digestion, as everybody knows, is half the battle of life even when the mercury is standing at a harrowing height.

Thrice happy is he who has learned to be easily pleased. He has found the philosopher's stone. He has become superior to fate and the weather. When it is piping hot he smiles gratefully as he reflects that at all events he has not been sunstruck. He continually finds sincere pleasure in reminding himself that it easily might be hotter, having respect more particularly to the equator and to the three gentlemen of old who were cast into what was literally a fiery furnace. He tranquilly appeals from the most rabid of the dog days to the bracing chillness of autumn, and now and then he re-reads Whittier's "Snow Bound." The consequence is that he gets through the heated term with comparative comfort. He is continually counting his mercies, and he always spells each of them with a big M. As for his troubles, he declines to count them, he resolutely turns away from them, and it pleases him, this man who is easily pleased, never to fret. It was a person of this sort who, when he fell and fractured his leg, exclaimed with glad eyes, "Thank God; it might have been my head." There certainly was a philosopher of the best because the most practical school. He had learned to be easily pleased.—*New York Tribune.*



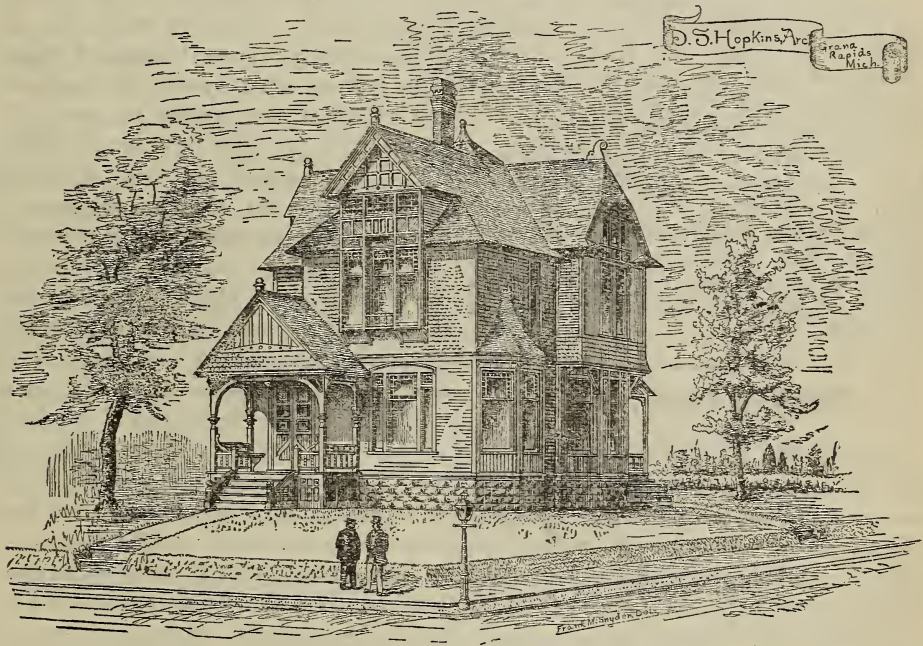
### Cottage Design.

We are indebted to Messrs. Vick, of Rochester, N. Y., for the accompanying cut and description of a very superior design for a cottage home.

This design is the result of a study for a dwelling combining as many features of convenience, good taste and economy as possible, not forgetting a neat, dressy exterior, to cost about \$1,800 to \$2,000.

The foundation of this house is of stone. Cellar under the sitting and dining-room of main part and kitchen of wing, the lat-

appropriate for a corner lot. The dining-room has a bay end formed by throwing a segment arch between stair projection and the opposite wall. This makes a fine window for house plants, and a very pretty feature of the dining room. All the principal rooms and the hall are thrown together with sliding-doors. Between the dining-room and the kitchen is the cupboard room. There is no exposed shelving, everything being enclosed with doors or drawers, so that a passage through it is unobjectionable, and a great many steps in doing the work are saved by its convenient location; it also tends to prevent offensive



ter to be used for storing fuel. This gives an abundance of cellar and allows of furnace connections to main chimney, if desired at any future time. One chimney answers for all rooms of main part, first and second floors, including fire place in parlor. Also, one flight of stairs answers for front and rear uses, with the short flight from dining-room up to main stair landing.

The bay in parlor is arranged so as to be a corner or side bay, and the sitting-room corners are angled so as to form a bay the full size of the room. In rear of this room is a porch with an entrance into the sitting-room. This feature makes the design very

odors entering the dining-room from the kitchen. Under the wide shelf at the window is a tip forward flour bin, for holding flour, meal, &c. There is a special china closet in the dining room, provided with drawers, doors, &c. In the sitting-room is another space saved by setting in a book case over the cellar stairs; it will set about two feet from the floor, owing to the head room of the cellar stairs. At the rear of the fire place in the dining-room is another very convenient closet, as well as one in the hall, under the stairs. Upon the stair landing there is a sliding door which can be closed so as to avoid any drafts in the heat-

ing of the hall, or for the privacy of the rear stairs. The windows are so arranged as to light the stairs, and at the same time the hall, in either case.

Upon the second floor there are four bed-rooms and an abundance of closets, and stairs to attic; also a large hall closet; or, if desired, can be made into a nice bath room. Two nice rooms can be finished off in the attic, if desired, or that space makes a nice store room. The exterior of this cottage, at first appearance, looks somewhat elaborate, but in detail is quite simple and not expensive. It is represented in the elevation and perspective as being partly shingled and partly sided upon the second story, but shingling can be substituted for siding, if preferred. The frame is in the ordinary balloon style, sheathed up on the outside, and lined with building paper under all exterior finish throughout.

The cottage can be built for \$1,800 or \$2,000, according to locality, finished in Pine, no plumbing or heating included. Parties desiring any further information can address, with stamp, D. S. HOPKINS, Grand Rapids, Mich., who will cheerfully answer all inquiries concerning plans or otherwise.

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### Editorial Letter, No. 2.

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Our last was from Winthrop and since then we have been very busy seeking renewed health and strength, accompanying our friends on excursions to beautiful localities, entertaining many who are interested in agricultural subjects; and visiting places of interest in this always interesting State. The most interesting place recently visited by us is

THE SOLDIERS' HOME AT TAGUS, ME.; and we were so impressed with several particulars in connection with this visit that we cannot forbear writing about it. This Home is situated five miles from Augusta, the capital of Maine, and is one of the four Homes for soldiers now established by the government and located at different points in the country. The one at Hampton we have often visited, admiring its systematic arrangements and the perfect order which

reigns within its borders, as well as the beautiful grounds which surround it, and we did not suppose its equal could be found in any other part of our country in any similar institution. Visiting Augusta, we met our old friend, E. Haskell, Esq., with whom we spent a large part of the day, enjoying the generous hospitality of his home and that of his amiable and interesting family. This was supplemented by a drive across the river to Tagus to the Soldiers' Home. Our friend being personally acquainted with the officers we were shown through every part of the institution, and we can scarcely express the pleasure it gave us to witness what system, constant care and vigilance can produce to give enjoyment and beauty to the most prosaic things. As to its surroundings, they are almost perfect and we do not remember ever to have seen a greater profusion of flowers at any one institution than are to be seen in the grounds of this Home. The farm contained when purchased 600 acres; but large tracts have been added to it from time to time, until now it is one of the largest as well as one of the best farms in the State. It is well stocked and well improved, and that portion where the vegetables are grown consists of a soil of black muck from three to six feet deep, and the Lieutenant in charge told us they grew cabbages there last year so large that they could not go into a flour barrel. About 1,200 inmates are at present at the home, and for their accommodation they have a large reading room and library, a billiard room and bowling alley, and other sources of amusement. Religious services are held ever Sunday. The Home is under the command of Gen. Luther Stephenson, and the surgeon is Dr. Wallace Bolan. The Home has a band of musicians of its own and it is one of the best ones in the State. One thing here attracted our especial attention—an open bar-room—the first we had seen in the State and it seemed to be well patronized.



It struck us as very strange that this state of things could be under the rigid Maine temperance laws; and when told that they sold from two to three barrels of beer daily, we asked an explanation. The explanation was readily given us in the statement that this place belonged not to the State of Maine, but to the Government of the United States, and was under the laws of the general government only. The profits from the sale of the beer were used to support the band and to sustain the amusements of the soldiers. Everything was quiet and orderly and no appearance of intoxication could be observed by us; still we queried in our own mind whether it was not a bad example for the government to set, in the midst of the Pine Tree State, while the State was striving so earnestly to carry out the laws in behalf of Temperance Reform.

The surgeon, Dr. Wallace Bolan, and others were so kind to us, and made our visit so pleasant, that we shall always feel greatly indebted to them for their attention. We shall place it in the catalogue of very agreeable things, which have blest us on our journey through life, and it will never be forgotten by us.

W.

August 25, 1885.

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### American Pomological Society.

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The venerable Marshal P. Wilder, President of this Society, announces that the 20th session of this national association, on the invitation of the Michigan Horticultural Society, will be held in Grand Rapids; commencing Wednesday, the 9th of September, 1885, at 10 A. M., and continue three days.

Much care has been taken to select topics which are suitable for a society covering such a vast extent of country. It is believed that a better list of distinguished pomologists was never before announced for any meeting.

## Live Stock Register.

### Sell the Bulls Young.

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The difficulty of suitably caring for any considerable number of young bulls is thoroughly well understood by all old breeders, and oftentimes when surprise is expressed at the low price at which this or that breeder allowed such and such a promising, well bred young calf to go, the explanation is easily found in his desire to get rid of his young bulls at an early age. It is, indeed, a very important matter to the breeder to dispose of the young bulls as early as possible, enough so to make it really profitable to him to throw off a good big slice of the price he may have set on them as being, in his estimation, a fair one. In many cases the breeder's resources are such as to make it very difficult, indeed, if not impossible for him to keep more than a very limited number of yearling or two-year-old bulls as they should be kept. Young bulls need exercise, and hence sufficient pasture room must be provided for them, away from the females, and so protected that they will be securely confined; nor should any but a very small number be allowed to run together, and these should be accustomed to each other. Close confinement is sadly injurious to young bulls, not only depriving them of the muscular development that is so essential to their future usefulness, but also tending to develop an ugly disposition, and thus seriously impairing their value in two ways.

On all accounts, then, it is wise economy to make the price of the bull calves sufficiently low to be an inducement to purchasers; indeed many a man whose annoyance and difficulties in caring for the young bulls have increased rapidly as these grew older, has found himself compelled to dispose of some of them at whatever price he could get, in some cases no more than he refused for the animal six months before, when a calf, and he finds himself six months later in getting his money, and with six months additional expense of care and feed, and plus an "accident" or two among his young heifers. Even where a breeder is so fortunately situated that the trouble and expense of caring for a number of young bulls is reduced to a minimum, he will, if he holds on to them, find them accumulate very

rapidly on his hands, and he is obliged to unload at a public sale, and every one knows what hard work it is to make good average prices on a sale where the bulls very largely preponderate. Until the average farmer gets much better educated in stock matters, and the demand for pure-bred young bulls becomes more general, there will necessarily be a tendency to oversupply in the bull market, and the breeders, of course, must at times be prepared to take moderate prices; hence the earlier they can dispose of them the better, and the use of the knife, so carefully avoided, will often prove not to be so great a sacrifice as was anticipated.—*Nat. Live Stock Journal*.

### Feeding Skimmed Milk to Calves.

Prof. W. A. Henry, of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison, Wis., has been making some very careful experiments in feeding calves on skimmed milk, and in a late bulletin gives an account of results. His general conclusions are summed up as follows:

We have had both good and poor results from feeding skim milk, and, as a summary of experience, offer the following hints:

Feed skim milk lightly. Eight to nine quarts in three feeds is sufficient to make a thrifty calf gain from 12 to 14 pounds a week.

More calves are killed by over feeding than by under feeding.

Feed three times a day if you wish good results.

Never let the milk go into the calf's stomach colder than 98° Fahrenheit. Use the thermometer regularly in determining the warmth of the milk.

Make lime water by putting a lump of lime the size of a hen's egg into a jug of water and shaking. When the water is clear it is ready for use. Keep the jug corked tight at all times. A tablespoonful of the clear lime water may be given with each feed, if the calf shows any sign of scours. If scouring occurs, reduce the amount of milk at once. An egg stirred in the milk, and parched flour, are both excellent remedies. Over-feeding, not feeding often enough, irregularity, and cold milk are the principal causes of scouring.

Teach the calf to eat whole oats by the

time it is three weeks or a month old, by slipping a few small handfuls into its mouth just after it has drunk milk. When it has learned to eat them, keep a supply before it in a little box. If you have not oats enough for the horses and calves both, let the horses go without rather than the calves. Do not waste time grinding the oats. Bran, oil meal, and other articles are good, but oats is the most satisfactory of all. I never knew of a calf eating too many. While young keep each calf tied by itself, and if the flies are troublesome darken the stable. Do not put the young things out into the hot sun, with the idea that the little grass they may eat will compensate for the blood sucked by the myriads of flies that pester them. We have had less trouble and better results with winter calves than with those that come in the spring.

Dismiss all prejudice that a skim milk calf must be a stunted, unsightly thing. We are making as great advancement in calf rearing as in butter or cheese making, and old ideas must be put away.

### Death of a Valuable Cow.

Mrs. Samuel M. Shoemaker has lost by death from inflammation of the lungs the world-renowned cow Princess Second, which astonished the world by giving in seven days a yield of forty-six pounds and ten and a-half ounces of butter. This test of her butter qualities was completed April 10, 1885. Some time after the test the blankets were taken off rather suddenly, it is thought, and she took a cold, from which she never recovered. She was a magnificent animal, of great vitality and force, as well as a fine butter producer. One of the secrets of her immense yields of butter was her great vitality and appetite. During the very height of the test, when she was fed as large quantities of butter-producing food as it was thought she could safely bear, she broke loose one night and consumed over 200 pounds prepared food in a box in the stable. About two years ago Mr. Shoemaker refused \$25,000 for her. She was 8 years and 6 months old when she died. She was an imported cow, and was bought at auction in New York for \$4,800. She was of the celebrated Coomassie strain. Her last calf was sold during an absence from home of Mrs. Shoemaker for \$10,000, but the sale



did not stand, Mrs. Shoemaker refusing to ratify it on her return. While the Burnside Park Jersey herd has sustained great loss in the death of Princess Second, it is thought her place will be more than filled by a noble cow of grand physique of the same strain. This animal, Oxford Kate, a near relative of Princess Second, has already a record of 39 pounds 12 ounces of butter in 7 days, which is already second to Princess Second, and as she has never been pushed, it is believed she can beat the foremost record. The father of this cow cold for \$5,150. All the the Burnside herd are in fine condition.

## POUTRY HOUSE.

### Chapters on Chickens.

BY EXPERIENCE.

#### CHAPTER IX.

##### FEEDING.

1. It is a matter of general consent that all animals thrive best on a variety of food, and chickens are no exception to this rule.

2. Any variety of seeds will prove acceptable to them; but method in feeding is found to produce the very best results, and care in the preparation of food adds to its value.

3. For the morning, the usual grain may be dispensed with and a soft feed substituted. This may consist of a mixture and should be well cooked. Any kind of vegetables, such as potatoes, turnips, carrots or onions may be cooked with corn meal, oat meal or bran, and fed with profit.

4. Two parts bran and one part corn meal, cooked together, make a good morning feed. If they need green food with it, chopped grass or chopped cabbage may be added to it.

5. It is not good policy to feed corn meal wet up with cold water, although it is a very common practice. Many of the fatal diseases of chickens can be traced to this method of feeding.

6. The mush should be well cooked, and quite dry to be most valuable.

7. At noon, we have as a general thing

fed very little to our chickens. The scraps from the family table; a little cooked meat two or three times a week; occasionally some cooked liver; sometimes broken scraps from some trying establishment, or some fresh fish if handy. In the winter we have thrown a few oats among the litter to promote exercise.

For the evening feed we have always fed whole grain, and plenty of it. The general feed has been corn, varied with a part of oats, wheat, barley and rice when obtained at favorable rates. Chickens like corn the best; but it fattens the hens too much and stops their laying. Yet, especially in cold weather, corn should always be a part of the P. M. feed.

9. Do not feed too much at any one time. The food should be eaten up clean, and the chickens should be inclined to scratch and hunt about for extra rations.

10. If not supplied with plenty of range, they should have gravel, broken bones, oyster shells, nad charcoal to eat. The gravel should be broken stone with plenty of sharp corners. The use of lime is good for them; but do not feed them egg shells, for they are worthless and will sometimes suggest egg eating to them.

11. Sunflower seed must be fed with care—on account of the great amount of oil it contains. The same may be said of buckwheat.

12. Be careful not to over-feed, and thus get your hens too fat. The eggs will be very few in this case and almost always infertile. On this account the Asiatic fowl should receive very little corn; but oats and wheat are their best food.

13. In the summer for confined chickens give plenty of green food—clover is excellent, and grass sod is relished by them. In the autumn lay in a stock of small potatoes, or turnips, or carrots, or onions, or some of all of these, to be used as green food in the winter. Save all the cabbage stripping for this purpose, and whatever green thing can be turned to account in this way will be of great benefit to the health of fowls.

14. The flock should have a constant supply of pure water for drink. Take particular notice here: *Pure* water, such as you would be willing to use yourself. Polluted water is just as unhealthy for chickens as for human beings.

15. This matter of feeding your chickens properly will decide your success or failure in the business. Of course, there are other considerations in the cleanliness and care of your flock; but the feeding, regularly, not too bounteously, with proper variety of grain, bones, broken rocks, vegetables, broken shells and charcoal, will be found the chief consideration.

#### How to Destroy Poultry Vermin.

When large flocks of poultry are kept together considerable difficulty is often experienced in keeping them free from those little pests so much dreaded—*lice*. The following method is adopted by not a few extensive breeders and is said to work admirably: Get a gallon, more or less, of crude petroleum, and, with a spraying bellows, if you have it, or with a brush, if you have nothing better, thoroughly saturate every part of the inside of the poultry houses. This will rid them of every vestige of lice, large or small, and, as the small lice or mites mostly leave the fowls in the morning, it will, in a couple of applications, rid them of the pests. A little lard oil and kerosene, half and half, applied under the wings of the birds will kill all the large lice that are on them. But every person who has many fowls should have some sort of a spraying apparatus, and with this spray the house once a month with kerosene emulsion. This can be quickly done and will keep everything perfectly clean.

#### Some Curious Things About Congressional Agriculture.

We publish the following to show how the Department is managed by members of Congress. If the facts are as stated the sooner this distribution of seeds by Congressmen is broken up the better it will be for the country; and the agriculturists better take the bull by the horns and elect men to Congress who will rely upon their merits for re-election and not depend upon the distribution of seeds to secure votes:

"We are distributing twenty thousand packets of turnip seed daily," said Colonel Colman, Commissioner of Agriculture, to a correspondent of the *Portland Advertiser*.

Colonel Colman's garden-seed department is a busy place these days. The Congressmen who got circulars notifying them that they \$180 worth of seeds apiece due them, have been remarkably prompt in responding. Congress votes \$180,000 annually for seeds. Two-thirds of this sum goes back in seeds to the 400 Senators and Representatives, and the Commissioner of Agriculture distributes the rest through other channels.

Each Congressman is allowed 5000 papers of vegetable seeds to begin with. In addition, the members from tobacco districts have received in the past year 500 papers of imported tobacco seed each; the cotton belt members have each had 200 quarts of cotton seed; the winter wheat men have had 200 quarts apiece of their staple grain; the spring wheat representatives have been equally favored, and the Congressmen have been blessed in abundance with kernels of choice maize. All the Congressmen received in July 1000 papers of turnip seed each, and grama seed, three or four bushels to the member was showered alike upon the just and unjust. The turnip seed distribution is just closing. Sugar beet seeds were sent also to favorable districts.

The peculiarities of statesmen are often indicated by the manner in which they dispose of Colonel Colman's crops. Some latitude of choice is allowed, and members who are well up in farming and gardening get their quota in the one or two grains or vegetables that are staple articles in their districts, thus making themselves solid for years. There is Joe Blackburn, for instance, whose enduring fame in Kentucky is due in no small degree to the fact that he takes out all his allowances in hemp seed, and induces the commissioner to give him several bushels over.

The champion seed distributors of the House are Taylor, of Tennessee, and Jones, of Texas, with Lanham, of Texas, a good third. These Congressmen represent big and growing districts, with innumerable wants. They are insatiate. They exhaust their own allotments of seeds early, and then get as many assignments of orders from other Congressmen as they can. A literary Congressman who wants to swap seeds for documents is a great find for a seed Congressman. For instance, Representative Milliken, of Maine, traded his to-



bacco seed with Phil. Thompson, Jr., of Kentucky, for printed copies of Blaine's eulogy on Garfield. Maine wanted her eulogies more than the tobacco seed.

The average Congressman sends from ten to three hundred names of seed constituents to the commissioner. Occasionally the lists reach 1000 names, and there have been members who have sent in 5000 names with the request to send one paper of seed to each.

The Hon. Thomas Poterhouse Ochiltree was a great seed hunter before he was a Congressman, but, having once been elected, he neglected his constituents in this particular. In reply to the last notification that seeds were awaiting his order he replied: "My constituents don't go much on seeds, but they are mighty fond of partridges. You may send a few coops around to my rooms." The late commissioner looked up the law on the subject to see if he could comply with the requisition. Col. Ochiltree said that if a member could have cologne and suspenders charged to his stationery account, he saw no reason why partridges might not be enumerated under the head of turnip seed and Jerusalem artichokes.

The Senators draw their seeds with as much punctuality as the Representatives. Warner Miller does not send out small saplings that will grow into wood-pulp trees, as has been supposed. He has a very complete list of Half-Breeds to whom Colonel Colman franks choice flower and vegetable seeds. Nevada Jones has a constituency that grows nothing but quartz rock. He gives away his seeds to his swarm of friends.

The frosty Edmunds is as formal and mysterious in the seed business as he is in everything else. Nobody ever sees his list of beneficiaries. He does not send it to the Department, but orders the seeds sent to his residence in bulk. He then goes into executive session with himself and before coming out makes a solemn oath never to divulge what has happened.

The distribution of food fishes and spawn develops some queer stories. One member "drew" some gold fish in a globe, but before they were delivered he caused them to be exchanged for canary birds, and the feathered songsters were sent to his home in a fine nickel-plated cage.

### "O, Lor' Hit 'Im Again!"

In the early days of Methodism in Scotland, a certain congregation, where there was but one rich man, desired to build a new chapel. A church meeting was held. The old rich Scotchman rose and said: "Brethren, we dinna need a new chapel: I'll give £5 for repairs."

Just then a bit of plaster falling from the ceiling hit him on the head.

Looking up and seeing how bad it was, he said: "Brethren, its worse thon I thought; I'll make it 50 pun'."

"Oh, Lord," exclaimed a devoted brother on a back seat, "hit 'Im again!"

There are many human tabernacles which are in sore need of radical building over, but we putter and fuss and repair in spots without satisfactory results. It is only when we are personally alarmed at the real danger that we act independently, and do the right thing. Then it is that we most keenly regret because we did not sooner use our judgment, follow the advice born of the experience of others and jump away from our perils.

Thousands of persons who will read this paragraph are in abject misery to-day when they might be in a satisfactory condition. They are weak, lifeless, full of odd aches and pains, and every year they know they are getting worse, even though the best doctors are patching them in spots. The origin of these aches and pains is the kidneys and liver, and if they would build these all over new with Warner's safe cure as millions have done, and cease investing their money in miserably unsuccessful patchwork, they would be well and happy and would bless the day when the Lord "hit 'em" and indicated the common sense course for them to pursue.—*London Press.*

### Our Fruit.

#### THE CROPS MUCH LARGER THAN THE AVERAGE NON-BEARING YEAR.

The *New England Homestead* publishes reports from over 1000 correspondents in the fruit regions of New England, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. They show that, though this is the odd or non-bearing year for apples, there will be no scarcity of that fruit. The reason of this unnatural yield is that so many of the orchards all over the country suffered from the heavy frosts last year which caused them to become barren for that year. The crop will fall a little short of 75 per cent. of an average bearing year, and is, therefore, much larger than the average non-bearing year crop. There has been little damage from the canker worms throughout the section covered. It is too early for prices on winter apples to be estimated, but in New England and New York State

\$1.50 and \$2.50 per barrel will probably be the ruling prices. There is a great abundance of cider apples, and many will be fed to cattle.

Plums, where grown, will be a good crop. Pears average about 75 per cent. of a full crop, and the quality of the fruit generally is good. Grapes in the East fall below an average crop, but in quality make up what they lack in quantity. Quinces, where grown, fall below an average. Berries and cherries were a great crop—the largest for years.

### Domestic Recipes.

**APPLE WATER.**—1. Roast or bake three or four fine apples, pare and sweeten them, and put them into a jug, pour one quart of boiling water over them and let them stand until cold; strain off the water and add to it the juice of a lemon also strained. 2. Pare six apples and remove the cores, slice them finely and put them into a jug; pour over them one quart of boiling water, add the thinly-cut rind and the juice of a lemon, with powdered sugar to taste; cover over the jug and leave in a cool place until quite cold, strain and it is ready.

**WHITE FRUIT CAKE.**—Two cups of sugar, one cup of butter, whites of two eggs, two cups of milk, two teaspoonfuls of soda, four teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, four cups of flour, one pound of fruit. Stir the butter, sugar and eggs all together, put soda in the milk and sift cream of tartar in the flour.

**TOMATO SOUP, WITHOUT MEAT.**—One quart stewed tomatoes, one quart of new milk, one rolled cracker, one teaspoonful soda, a small bit of butter and a little salt, when the tomatoes are sufficiently cooked add the soda, then the cracker, butter and salt. Heat the milk in a saucepan and pour into the kettle, and as soon as it boils remove from the fire and serve at once.

**FRIED CUCUMBERS.**—Pare off the rind and cut in lengthwise slices; dust each side with corn meal or flour, pepper and salt, and fry in lard until they are of a light brown color.

**BOILED CUCUMBERS.**—Pare, and cut them lengthwise into four parts. Cook like asparagus, and serve with butter, cream and toasted bread.

**SUCCOTASH.**—Scrape a half dozen ears of corn, add a pint of lima or any green bean, and boil one hour in a quart of water with a teaspoonful each of salt and sugar, and a salt-spoonful of pepper. Let the water boil away to about a cupful, add a spoonful of butter, and serve in a hot dish. Suppose you put in a quarter of a pound of pork instead of the butter, one spoonful of cream may be added.

**CORN PUDDING.**—Use for this one pint of cut or grated corn, one pint of milk, two eggs well beaten, one teaspoonful of pepper. Butter a pudding dish, and bake for half an hour. Canned, as well as green corn, may be used for this.

**GREEN CORN FRITTERS.**—Take six ears of corn and grate them, producing about a pint of grained corn. Mix with this, half a cup of milk, two well-beaten eggs, half a cup of flour, one teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, and a tablespoonful of melted butter. Fry in very small cakes in a little hot butter.

### List of State Agricultural Fairs.

American Institute, New York	Sept. 30, Dec. 5
California, Sacramento	Sept. 7, 19
Central Ontario, Hamilton	Sept. 21, 25
Connecticut, Meriden	Sept. 15, 18
Delaware, Dover	Sept. 28, Oct. 3
Illinois, Chicago	Sept. 14, 19
Illinois Fat Stock, Chicago	Nov. 10, 19
Indiana, Indianapolis	Sept. 28, Oct. 3
Iowa, Des Moines	Sept. 4, 11
Kansas, Lawrence	Sept. 7, 12
Kansas, Topeka	Sept. 14, 19
Kansas City, (Mo.) Fat Stock	Oct. 29, Nov. 4
Louisville, Louisville	Aug. 15, Oct. 24
Maine, Lewistown	Sept. 21, 25
Maryland, Hagerstown	Oct. 20, 23
Massachusetts Horticultural, Boston	Sept. 15, 18
Michigan, Kalamazoo	Sept. 14, 18
Milwaukee Industrial	Sept. 2, Oct. 17
Minnesota, St. Paul	Sept. 7, 12
Nebraska, Lincoln	Sept. 11, 18
New-England, Bangor, Me.	Sept. 1, 5
New Hampshire, Manchester	Sept. 21, 24
New-Jersey, Waverley	Sept. 14, 18
New-York, Albany	Sept. 10, 16
North Carolina, Raleigh	Oct. 12, 17
Ontario Provincial, London	Sept. 7, 12
Oregon, Salem	Sept. 21, 26
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Sept. 27, Oct. 7
Rhode Island, Providence	Sept. 21, 25
St. Louis, St. Louis	Oct. 5, 10
St. Louis Exposition	Sept. 9, Oct. 24
South Carolina, Columbia	Nov. 10, 13
Toronto Industrial	Sept. 9, 13
Tri State Toledo, Ohio	Sept. 7, 12
Vermont, Burlington	Sept. 7, 11
Virginia, Richmond	Oct. 21, 23
West Virginia, Wheeling	Sept. 7, 12
West Virginia Central, Clarksburg	Sept. 22, 25
Wisconsin, Madison	Sept. 7, 11

### MARYLAND FAIRS.

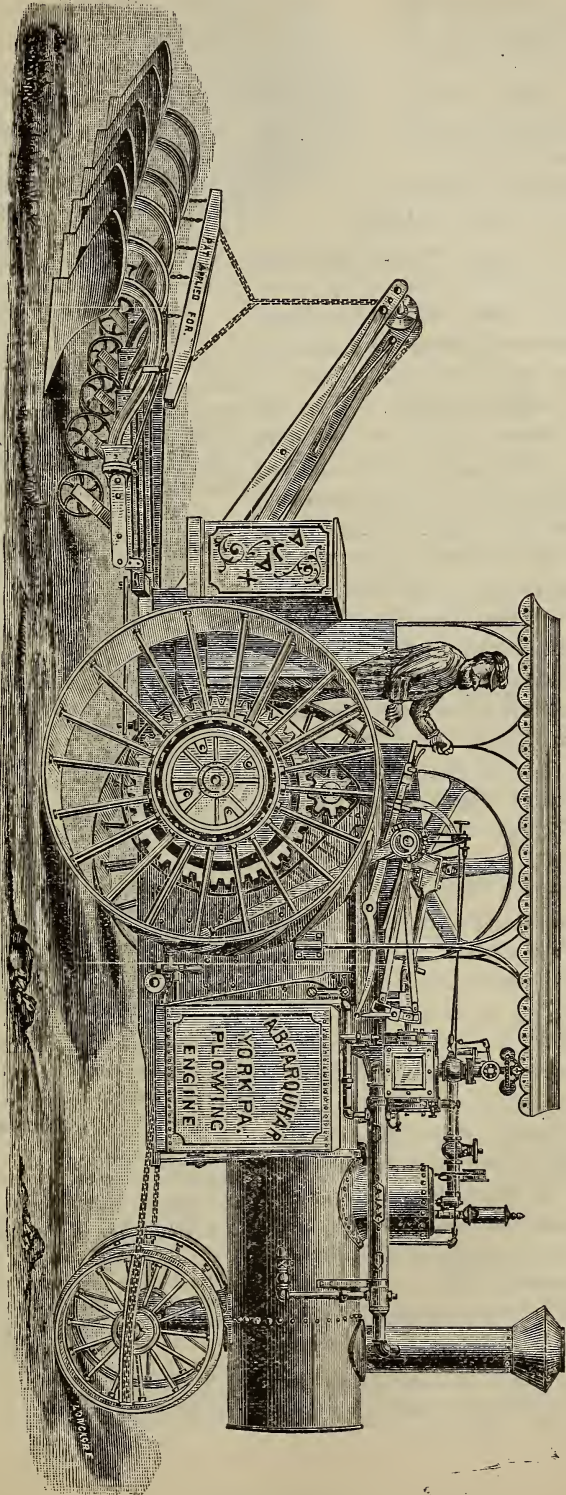
Baltimore, Timonium	Sept. 29, Oct. 2
Cecil, Elkton	Oct. 6, 9
Frederick, Frederick City	Oct. 13, 16
Harford, Bel Air	Oct. 13, 16
Montgomery, Rockville	Sept. 2, 3
Kent County	Sept. 22, 23, 24

### "Fearless" Threshing Machine.

We call the attention of farmers and threshermen to the advertisement of the celebrated "Fearless Threshing Machine, elsewhere in this paper. Unparalleled honors have been bestowed upon this machine, at fairs and exhibitions, State, National and International. And, as equally good and reliable evidences of superiority have been given, by the highest authority, times without number, persons desirous to purchase will do well to consult the manufacturer of the "FEARLESS," MINARD HARDER, Cobleskill, N. Y.



FARQUHAR'S AJAX STEAM PLOWING ENGINE.



The above cut illustrates a "Traction Engine" manufactured by A. B. Farquhar, York, Pa. Such has been the improvement in late years made upon this useful and really wonderful machine that those who first conceived such an idea would hardly recognize one now as a relation to the child of their inventive brain.

It has taken some years to introduce them into use, but, like many other inventions, especially labor-saving machines, they are slowly overcoming the prejudices of enemies and convincing all large farmers of their economical necessity. Like the telegraph of Morse, they have met with scorn, ridicule and derision, but time has proven the ignorance of the scorners and established the high value of the inventions. The cost of these machines was and is the chief drawback toward their general introduction, but that should weigh but little in the estimation of the owners of thousands of acres when with a Traction Engine he can plow more safely and satisfactorily six furrows at a time than he can plow one with three horses, while the work per acre is cheaper than can be done by horses. But these machines are also adapted to medium-sized farms also, for Mr. Farquhar says they "are so easily handled that an ordinary ten-acre field can be plowed with success." Thus, one machine could do the work of a neighborhood instead of keeping so many work-beasts on high cost of feed. This is only looking to one quality of the Traction Engine, it being capable of being turned into a perfect plow; yet many other uses and capabilities as both a traction and stationary power would of themselves recommend them to everyone who owns a farm, large or small, for their economy of labor and expense, simplicity in management, strength, durability and ready adaptness to almost any work conceivable on a farm.

We doubt not that in a few years they will become so generally used on all farms

that people will wonder how without them farming in the past could have been carried on at all on a large scale. For many years they have been used in England, and are becoming more popular daily. We have often had occasion to speak before of these remarkable inventions, and are convinced every day more of their use and indispensable value on large plantations where machinery is necessary to handle the extensive farm products.

The "Traction Engine" is always an object of attraction and admiration wherever exhibited to the public in competition with other like inventions or simply as a specimen or sample of inventive genius, which seem of late to know no bounds in the mechanical world when supported by the finishing touches of art.

### Contents for September Number.

#### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Farm Work for September.....	260
Garden Work for September.....	261
The Farmer's Life.....	261
Letter from Kent County.....	262
The Hessian Fly.....	263
California Fruits.....	264
Country Cured Bacon.....	265
Deer Creek Farmers' Club.....	266
Hin's on Wheat Culture.....	267
Golden Opportunities for Emigrants.....	268
Good Vinegar.....	268
Natural Fruits.....	268
Agricultural Department's Crop Report.....	269
Experiments with Grasses.....	271
Editorial Notes..260-261-265-268 269-277-278 282	
The Fairs.....	278
Education in Agricultural Colleges.....	278
Bells on the Farm.....	279
Cottage Design.....	281

#### THE DAIRY.

Grain Growing.....	273
Managing Cream.....	272
Ensilage for Milch Cows.....	274
Common Sense in Feeding.....	275

#### LIVE STOCK REGISTER.

Sell the Bulls Young.....	283
Feeding Skim Milk.....	284
Death of a Valuable Cow.....	284

#### POULTRY HOUSE.

Chapters on Chickens.....	285
Domestic Recipes.....	288
Ploughing Engine.....	288-289